

WARREN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

COMMITTEE: **FINANCE**

DATE: **SEPTEMBER 9, 2009**

Committee Members Present:

Supervisors Stec
 Belden
 O'Connor
 Bentley
 Tessier
 Taylor
 Kenny
 Merlino

Committee Member Absent:

Supervisor VanNess

Others Present:

Frederick Monroe, Chairman
Hal Payne, Commissioner of
Administrative & Fiscal Services
Joan Sady, Clerk of the Board
JoAnn McKinstry, Deputy Commissioner of
Administrative & Fiscal Services
Kevin Geraghty, Budget Officer
Supervisor Pitkin
Supervisor Strainer
Supervisor Thomas
Frank O'Keefe, County Treasurer
Richard Murphy, Deputy Commissioner of
Fiscal Services
Rob Lynch, Deputy Treasurer
William Lamy, DPW Superintendent
Don Lehman, *The Post Star*
Thom Randall, *Adirondack Journal*
Nicole Livingston, Deputy Clerk

Mr. Stec called the meeting of the Finance Committee to order at 11:11 a.m.

Motion was made by Mr. Belden, seconded by Mr. Tessier and carried unanimously to approve the minutes of the August 12, 2009 Committee meeting, subject to correction by the Clerk of the Board.

Copies of the Finance Agenda were provided to the Committee members, and a copy of same is on file with the minutes.

Commencing the Agenda review, Mr. Stec stated Item 1 were the requests for Transfer of Funds which were attached for Committee approval. He noted that Supervisory Committee approval had been obtained as necessary.

Motion was made by Mr. Belden, seconded by Mr. Tessier and carried unanimously to approve Item 1 as outlined above. The necessary resolution was authorized for the next board meeting.

Mr. Stec apprised Items 2A and B were referrals from the County Treasurer. Item 2A, he said, was a request to write off a \$3,681 balance owed on a delinquent payroll overpayment to a former employee. Mr. Stec added Item 2B was a request for a Transfer of Funds in the amount of \$3,681 to be transferred from A.1990 469-

Contingent Fund to write off the balance owed on a delinquent payroll overpayment to a former employee.

Motion was made by Mr. Belden and seconded by Mr. Taylor to approve the requests as presented.

Mr. Geraghty requested an explanation for this request. Frank O'Keefe, County Treasurer, explained that a former employee at the Westmount Health Facility had been overpaid back in 2005 and that his Office had tried on numerous occasions to recoup the funds to no avail. He further stated that during his tenure as County Treasurer, similar scenarios had occurred approximately seven times in which all the funds had been recovered. However, he added, in this case they had exhausted all efforts to collect the balance of the overpayment, and it was the advice of the County Attorney that the charge be written off.

Discussion ensued concerning overpayments.

Following discussion, Mr. Stec called the question and the motion was carried unanimously to approve Items 2A and B as outlined above. The necessary resolutions were authorized for the next board meeting.

Mr. Stec reported that Item 3 was a referral from the Health Services Committee, Health Services, requesting to amend the 2009 County budget to increase estimated revenues and appropriations in the amount of \$60,000 to reflect receipt of a portion of the Bioterrorism Grant.

Motion was made by Mr. Belden, seconded by Mr. Bentley and carried unanimously to approve Item 3 as outlined above. The necessary resolution was authorized for the next board meeting.

Mr. Stec asserted Items 4A and B were referrals from the Human Services Committee, Office for the Aging. Item 4A, he said, was a request to amend the 2009 County budget to increase estimated revenues and appropriations in the amount of \$8,000 to reflect receipt of funds allocated by the New York State Office for the Aging (NYSOFA) for NY Connects (POE) for Hamilton County.

Motion was made by Mr. Tessier, seconded by Mr. Taylor and carried unanimously to approve Item 4A as outlined above. The necessary resolution was authorized for the next board meeting.

Mr. Stec added that Item 4B was a request to amend the 2009 County budget to increase estimated revenues and appropriations in the amount of \$11,000 to reflect receipt of funds allocated by the NYOFA for NY Connects (POE) for Warren County.

Motion was made by Mr. Bentley, seconded by Mr. Belden and carried unanimously to approve Item 4B as outlined above. The necessary resolution was authorized for the next board meeting.

Mr. Stec advised Item 5 was a referral from the Public Safety Committee, Sheriff & Communications, requesting to amend the 2009 County budget to increase estimated revenues and appropriations in the amount of \$36,137 to reflect receipt of revenues from the 2007-2010 911 Reimbursement Program.

Motion was made by Mr. Tessier, seconded by Mr. Bentley and carried unanimously to approve Item 5 as outlined above. The necessary resolution was authorized for the next board meeting.

Mr. Stec commented that Items 6A through E were referrals from the Public Works Committee. Items 6A and B were referred from the Airport. He noted Item 6A was a request to establish Capital Project No. H305.9550 280- Runway 1 Land Acquisition/Powers Parcel, in the amount of \$358,184 to purchase property adjacent to the Airport that would allow for the removal of critical obstructions to current and future areas of protected airspace. He added that the source of funding would be as follows: 95% FAA Grant \$340,275; 2.5% NYSDOT Grant \$8,955; and 2.5% County funding \$8,954 to be transferred from A.9950 910-Transfers-Capital Projects.

Motion was made by Mr. Tessier, seconded by Mr. Belden and carried unanimously to approve Item 6A as outlined above. The necessary resolution was authorized for the next board meeting.

Mr. Stec added that Item 6B was a request to establish Capital Project No.306.9550 280-Land/Avigation Easement -Forest Enterprises Parcel, in the amount of \$34,431 to purchase property adjacent to the Airport that would allow for the removal of critical obstructions to current and future areas of protected airspace. He said that the source of funding would be as follows: 95% FAA Grant \$32,709; 2.5% NYSDOT Grant \$861; and 2.5% County funding \$861 to be transferred from A.9950 910-Transfers-Capital Projects.

Motion was made by Mr. Tessier, seconded by Mr. Taylor and carried unanimously to approve Item 6B as outlined above. The necessary resolution was authorized for the next board meeting.

Mr. Stec apprised Items 6C and D were referred from DPW. He stated Item 6C was a request to amend the existing grant with NYSDOT to include the Supplemental Master

Agreement #6 for Starbuckville and Chester Creek Bridges for an additional amount not to exceed \$10,500.

Motion was made by Mr. Bentley, seconded by Mr. Belden and carried unanimously to approve Item 6C as outlined above. The necessary resolution was authorized for the next board meeting.

Mr. Stec said Item 6D was a request to increase Capital Project No. H236.9550 280-Const. Starbuck and Chester Bridges, in the amount of \$10,500 to reflect the Supplemental Master Agreement #6. He noted that the source of funding would be as follows: \$8,400 Federal Share; \$1,575 Marchiselli Funds; and \$525 Local Share.

Motion was made by Mr. Tessier, seconded by Mr. Belden and carried unanimously to approve Item 6D as outlined above. The necessary resolution was authorized for the next board meeting.

Mr. Stec reported that Item 6E was referred from Parks, Recreation & Railroad, requesting to amend the 2009 County budget to increase estimated revenues and appropriations in the amount of \$33,150 to reflect receipt of 30% payment from the State Snowmobile Grant funds.

Motion was made by Mr. Belden, seconded by Mr. Merlino and carried unanimously to approve Item 6E as outlined above. The necessary resolution was authorized for the next board meeting.

Concluding the Agenda review, Mr. Stec apprised Item 7 was for Finance Committee action which was required on the following items that were approved by the Personnel Committee: Items 1, 2A, 2B, 4E and 4G.

Motion was made by Mr. Tessier, seconded by Mr. Bentley and carried unanimously to approve Item 7 as outlined above. The necessary resolution was authorized for the next board meeting.

Prior to adjournment, Mr. O'Keefe requested to address the Committee. He referred to a request from Chairman Monroe to prepare a budget analysis report comparing 2008 and 2009. He asked the Committee members to review the report provided which did reflect the prior year and totals for the entire County in the report. He noted that he had highlighted some departments that may be in trouble and eliminated some of the smaller departments from the report; however, he said, those were included in the overall figures.

Chairman Monroe commented that he was not being critical of the report, although it appeared that it focused on the negatives and there were some good things that had happened with the budget that should be reflected in the report, such as the abolishment of a number of positions and the reduction of fuel costs. He added that it would be helpful to see the net effect of the things that were over and those that were under, as well as where the County was percentage wise, year-to-date, compared to the budget. Chairman Monroe asserted that those were the types of reports that were provided at the town level and he would like a similar report for the County.

Discussion ensued pertaining to the reports provided by the County Treasurer. Following discussions, Mr. O'Keefe apprised that he would review reports provided at the town level to more accurately provide the Committee members with the types of reports that would be most beneficial to them.

Mr. O'Keefe also requested direction from the Committee concerning the Kronos Timekeeping System. Mr. Stec replied that the Budget Committee had authorized that the purchase and implementation for a timekeeping system be sent out to bid, one for a County-wide system and one for the Human Services Building only, and they were trying to progress quickly with the process.

Mr. Bentley suggested that a lag payroll be initiated in 2010 in order to save \$1.4 million next year, over ten months, and would save \$1.4 million worth of jobs, as well.

Motion was made by Mr. Bentley, seconded by Mr. Tessier and carried by majority vote, with Mr. Kenny voting in opposition, requesting the County Attorney to perform the necessary research regarding the feasibility of instituting a lag payroll.

Rob Lynch, Deputy Treasurer, interjected that a lag payroll would not actually save the County any money, but may help with cash flow. Mr. Lynch noted the lag payroll concept had been researched in the past.

There being no further business to come before the Committee, on motion made by Mr. Tessier and seconded by Mr. Belden, Mr. Stec adjourned the meeting at 11:35 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Nicole Livingston, Deputy Clerk